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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07470 242159Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12
MCE-00 /038 W
----------100289 250913Z /11
R 240722Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3064
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7470

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CNO FOR OP-63

E.O. 1162: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JA, RP, US, KS
SUBJ: REPAIR IN SOUTH KOREAN SHIPYARD OF FORMER US DESTROYER ESCORTS TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM JAPAN TO PHILIPPINES

REF: A) TOKYO 10635 (DTG 120809Z JUN 78) B) CJUSMAG MANILA 140855Z AUG 78 (NOTAL)

1. TWO OLD DESTROYER ESCORTS, EX-AMICK (DE 168) AND EX-ATHERTON (DE 169) ARE CURRENTLY BEING MADE READY BY US NAVY SHIP REPAIR FACILITY, YOKUSUKA, FOR TOW TO PUSAN, KOREA. THERE THEY WILL BE FORMALLY TRANSFERRED TO PHILIPPINE NAVY BEFORE UNDERGOING MAJOR REPAIRS AT PHILIPPINE NAVY EXPENSE AT KOREAN SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION (KSEC). SHIP REPAIR FACILITY ESTIMATES THAT SHIPS WILL BE READY FOR TOW SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, AND COULD ARRIVE IN PUSAN FIVE DAYS LATER. PLAN FOR REPAIR IN KOREAN SHIPYARD HAS BEEN DEVISED TO AVOID POTENTIAL
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PROBLEMS WITH JAPANESE PROHIBITIONS ON MUNITIONS EXPORTS.

2. PHILIPPINE NAVY HAS ARRANGED WITH JAPANESE AGENT FIRM, TOYO CORPORATION, FOR REPAIRS IN KOREAN SHIPYARD AS WELL AS TRANSFER OF OTHER FORMER US NAVY SHIPS AND CRAFT WHICH HAVE BEEN USED BY JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES. HPILIPPINE NAVY HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO REPAIR COST

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ESTIMATE OFFERED BY KSEC.

3. OUTSTANDING ISSUE REMAINS FORMAL AGREEMENT OF ROKG TO TRANSFER AND REPAIR PROPOSAL AND COORDINATION BETWEEN US NAVY, PHILIPPINE NAVY AND ROKG AUTHORITIES TO EFFECT CUSTODY TRANSFER. WE SEE NO MAJOR PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO ROKG AGREEMENT TO FORMAL CUSTODY TRANSFER IN PUSAN BETWEEN JUSMAG-K AND PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. IF DEPARTMENT DOES NOT OBJECT, EMBASSY WOULD PLAN TO SUBMIT FORMAL REQUEST TO MOFA TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SCENARIO:

SEPTEMBER 30: PATCHWORK COMPLETED AND SHIPS TURNED OVER IN YOKOSUKA FOR TOW BY COMMERCIAL TUG.

OCTOBER 6: VESSELS ARRIVE PUSAN HARBOR.

OCTOBER 7: SHIPS FOMALLY TRANSFERRED TO PHILIPPINE NAVY BY USN REPRESENTATIVE IN PUSAN HARBOR. US OWNERSHIP AND LIABILITY CEASES. JUSMAG KOREA WILL ORGANIZE TURNOVER.

OCT 7 OR 8: VESSELS ENTER KSEC SHIPYARD (TO BE ARRANGED BY PHILIPPINE NAVY).

4. JUSMAG-K AND COMNAVFORKOREA CONCUR IN THE NEED FOR A FORMAL REQUEST TO ROKG FOR PERMISSION TO TRANSFER
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CUSTODY OF SHIPS TO PHILIPPINES IN KOREAN PORT.

5. FOR CNO OP-63: NEITHER EMBASSY NOR JUSMAG-K HAVE RECEIVED SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER THESE SHIPS TO THE PHILIPPINE NAVY, PLEASE ADVISE.
GLEYSTEEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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